

Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health Care

May 2, 1997

Peter DeSantis
Commission
Chair, and
Chair of the
Systems Design
& Finance
Committee

Governor Tommy Thompson
Room 115 East
State Capitol
Madison WI 53702

Re: Submission of the Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health Care

Karen Robison
Deputy Chair
& Committee
Chair

Dear Governor Thompson:

It is with great pride and respect that I submit to you the final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health Care.

Doug Johnson
Committee
Chair

This was a very unique Commission, consisting of forty members who represented all of various stakeholders. They worked diligently, gave a tremendous amount of their time, and we all found the process to be a great learning experience. We struggled at times, but we all concluded that we have a lot of good things in our present system, but that we can do better. Change must occur in an orderly manner for we cannot maintain the status quo. Above all, the consumers' outcomes must drive the system.

I am especially grateful to Karen Robison, Vice Chair, Doug Johnson, Committee Chair, the Commission's Facilitator, Connie Firosh, and the Bureau of Community Mental Health's Sinikka McCabe, Damien Wilson, Chris Hendrickson, and Sally Haveman.

We believe that the basis of this report, if accepted and implemented, will again place the Wisconsin mental health system as the national leader.

Sincerely,



Peter DeSantis, Chair
Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health

cc: Members, Blue Ribbon Commission